

Penn High School
Penn Avenue at Main Street
Greenville
Mercer County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-547

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-547

PENN HIGH SCHOOL

Location: Penn Avenue at Main Street, Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Greenville West Quadrangle Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.551260.4583820

Present Owners: Greenville House Associates.

Present Occupants: Vacant.

Present Use: Vacant; to be demolished 1979.

Significance: The Jacobean Revival details displayed on this school building are unusual in Western Pennsylvania. It served as the only high school for the Greenville area until 1958.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Penn High School was designed by Thayer and Thayer, architects, of New Castle Pennsylvania. It was constructed between 1917 and 1919. The building was owned by the Boro of Greenville and the Greenville Area School District until September 1977 when it was sold to Zions Reformed Church (Deed Book 78, page 48, recorded January 9, 1978 in Mercer County Records office). On October 22, 1979 ownership of the property was transferred to Greenville House Associates (Deed Book 79, p. 3878, recorded Oct. 26, 1979 in the Mercer County recorder's office). The building was altered in 1960 to conform to Labor and Industry standards. The architects and engineers for this work were Hunter, Heiges and Gross of Sharon Pennsylvania. These alterations consisted mainly of remodeling exits and stairways to insure safety. The cafeteria and kitchen were remodeled and modernized in 1963 by Hunter-Heiges Associates.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The building is brick with sandstone and terra cotta trim. It has masonry bearing walls as well as reinforced concrete and structural clay tile slabs. The building measures 204'10" by 138'7". It is three stories with a full basement. The building has a flat black top roof with a terra cotta coping. There are two skylights, measuring 8' by 12' and 5' by 12'. Windows are six-over-six-light and four-over-four-light double hung sash. There are three main entrances. The most ornate is on the Main Street elevation, below an elaborate projecting bay. All three have identical concrete surrounds and semi-circular fanlights over the double doors. The building has Jacobean Revival details.

The interior has plaster walls and tile ceilings. The stairways are concrete with marble finish. The floors are hardwood. Classroom doors are 3' by 7' with two panels and a transom.

Prepared by Emily J. Harris
Historic American Buildings
Survey
November 1979

From information compiled by William Germanos
Crossgates, Incorporated
October 1979

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are the result of a project undertaken by the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the project to demolish the school for construction of Section 8 housing for the elderly. John A. Burns, AIA, was the HABS project coordinator. The data was prepared by Emily J. Harris, an architectural historian in the HABS office from information compiled by William Germanos of Crossgates, Incorporated. The photographs were taken by E. Lininger on October 27, 1979.